

STATE ROUTE 16: TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE PROJECT

Tacoma Narrows Bridge Project
Nighttime Construction Noise
Quarterly Report: October - December 2004

*Submitted on October 15, 2004 to:
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**Washington State
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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Tacoma Narrows Constructors have been issued a noise variance by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The variance was issued for noise levels expected to result from construction work between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in conjunction with the construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The variance was issued with several conditions, including that WSDOT provide quarterly reports to the Health Department on activities relevant to the variance.

This is the eighth quarterly report and covers the period including October through December 2004. The following areas are addressed in this report:

- Overview of Nighttime Construction Activities
- Communication Activities
- Complaint Response & Resolution
- Upcoming Activities
- Attachments
 1. Public Mailings
 2. Nighttime construction activities log
 3. Citizen Contacts & Complaints
 4. Noise Measurements

OVERVIEW OF NIGHTTIME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES : OCTOBER - DECEMBER '04

Land-based work construction activities took place on the project site between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a total of nine nights during the period including October, November, and December 2004. There were a total of 70 nights when the two bridge tower work sites were staffed by project workers.

Nighttime construction work during this period took place in the Narrows at the new bridge towers, at the temporary concrete batch plant, and along the SR 16 mainline roadway on both sides of the bridge.

During this period, one complaint was received by WSDOT about construction noise from the project that occurred during nighttime hours.

Regular concrete production, typically four times per week, continued during this period at the temporary concrete batch plant. On 1 occasion during this period batch plant operations took place during nighttime hours. A total of 1.5 hours of batch plant operations took place between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. during this period.

Roadway work on the SR 16 mainline requiring temporary lane closures took place during nighttime hours on either side of the Narrows for a total of 7 nights during this period.

Specific descriptions of the type, location, and times of this work are provided in Attachment 2. Actual noise measurements collected during nighttime construction activities are summarized in Attachment 4.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

> INFORMATION & HOT LINE

A telephone information and “hot” line continues to be operational providing information about upcoming nighttime construction activities. It also provides residents an opportunity to communicate at any time of day with a live person about questions and/or concerns relating to the project nighttime construction activities and noise. This service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The phone number is 253-620-4440.

Nighttime construction activity information is provided in a recorded message by dedicated staff person, and updated, as necessary, to provide the most current information. Messages can also be left on the information line concerning the nighttime construction activities and these messages will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

Residents can also communicate directly with a person who can provide relevant information about project nighttime construction activities, accept comments, and if appropriate, directly contact WSDOT project staff. When project construction activities are taking place, the person staffing the “hot line” is able to immediately contact WSDOT project staff and to relay comments/complaints received. If requested by the caller, WSDOT project staff will return the call as soon as feasible.

> WEBSITE

To maximize public access to timely information about nighttime construction activities, a section of the project’s web site is dedicated to providing quick, easy access to information concerning nighttime construction activities. Information on this web site is updated daily to provide the most current information.

Comments and concerns about the nighttime construction activities can be submitted to project staff through the web site and will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

> POSTAL CARRIER ROUTE MAILINGS

As described in the Communication Plan for Nighttime Construction Noise, information sheets were mailed to residences and businesses along the project corridor.

Prior to each calendar month, residents along the project corridor have been mailed notification flyers about nighttime work activities scheduled to take place throughout the upcoming month. Each monthly flier is mailed to 4000 addresses.

Copies of the notification flyers distributed during this period are provided in Attachment 1.

COMPLAINT RESPONSE & RESOLUTION

During this quarter (October - December '04), WSDOT received one complaint about noise from the project. The approximate location of the complaint is shown below along with the date of the complaint and basic complaint issue.

The complaint regarded safety backup alarms on a truck removing traffic barrels and a loader placing barriers along SR 16.

Attachment 3 includes complete summary of this contact and their resolution.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

During the upcoming quarter, January - March '05, construction activities will continue throughout the project site along the SR 16 corridor from Jackson Avenue to the vicinity of 36th Street.

Work activities in the Narrows will continue, but have now shifted to construction of the new bridge towers. Tower work is scheduled to take place six days per week with the work sites being staffed seven days per week. The majority of tower construction will take place between 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., but some activities, including some concrete placement, will occur outside those hours. In comparison to the caisson construction, the individual concrete pours for the tower construction will be of smaller magnitude.

Concrete production will continue at the temporary batch plant typically four times per week. Concrete pours will be at both tower locations in the Narrows, both anchorage sites for the new Narrows Bridge, and retaining wall locations. The majority of concrete production will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., but some pours will start earlier and may continue later due to the magnitude of the pours as described in the noise variance.

While roadway work will take place on each side of the Narrows along the full length of the project corridor, the vast majority of this work will be conducted during daytime hours. The project's prevailing roadway construction strategy is to shift mainline SR 16 traffic onto temporary alignments that can be maintained for extended periods while most construction of new roadways takes place away from traffic. The relatively small amount of nighttime work required by this strategy is for construction of the "tie-ins" between the roadway configurations, the actual shifting of traffic lanes, and occasional short duration work requiring temporary lane closures such as sign placement